AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details with number of employees of ITDC hotels in New Delhi and Calcutta who have been sent out during the last one year under ITDCs Voluntary Retirement Scheme along with total amount of expenditure incurred by each of the hotels in the above two cities;

(b) whether it is a fact that services and operational structures in these hotels have been adversely affected during this period due to the absence of this staff;

(c) whether it is also a fact that some of the staff who opted for the VRS and were released about eighth months ago have not so far been given their final payments;

(d) whether any investigations have been ordered in this regard;

(e) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(f) what further action Government propose to take to ensure final payment to the concerned employees without any further delay?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) 578 employees of various hotels in Delhi and 4 employees of Hotel Airport Ashok Calcutta have sought retirement under the 'Voluntary Retirement Scheme of ITDC' introduced during the year 1992. The total amount payable to these employees on account of compensation, leave encashment, notice pay etc. is worked out at Rs. 485.68 lakhs.

(b) ITDC Management has taken appropriate steps to make internal adjustments and redeployment of the staff.

(c) The required payment could not be made by ITDC to some employees for non-submission of 'No Demand Certificate' and non-completion of other formalities.

(d) to (f) ITDC Management has again issued instructions to its units to take urgent steps to expedite the settlement of claims of the employees who have sought Voluntary Retirement.

Losses due to operation of Air taxies

4. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Airlines is facing stiff competition from Air Taxi operators;

(b) if so, whether Indian Airlines have suffered losses or profits on routes where air taxies are operating; and

(c) what are the details of routes where Government have permitted private operators to operate?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Indian Airlines has suffered marginal loss due to operation of Air taxi service

(c) Air Taxi operators' permit holders are free to operate to any station in the country open for scheduled operations with the approval of Airport Authorities.

Visit of foreign tourists to India

5. DR. SANJAYA SINH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of foreign tourists who have arrived in the country, so far, during the current year;

(b) the amount of foreign exchange earned from the tourists arrival during the said period; and

(c) the amount of foreign exchange spent on tourism publicity during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) The number of foreign tourists who visited

the country during April 1992 to January 1993 and the foreign exchange earnings from them during the same perlod were provisionally estimated to be 15,24,830 tourists and Rs. 3299 crores respectively.

(c) The amount released for overseas publicity till January, 1993 is about Rs. 33.00 crores out of a total allocation of Rs. 40 crores for 1992-93.

Lack of operation and passenger facilities

6. DR. SANJAYA SINH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the International Airports Authority of India has been found wanting in operations and passenger facilities, as per the report which appeared in the Hindustan Times of the 4th January, 1993 under the title "IAAI found wanting";

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) what action Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) The news item referred to the observations of the Comptroller & Audtor General of India regarding functioning of the CAT II Instrument Landing System (ILS) at Delhi and Bombay Airports and encroachment on IAAI lands.

At Delhi Airport, CAT II Instrument Landing System, perforce became nonfunctional due to recarpetting of runway, which required removal of inset light fitting of ILS. This system has already been made functional w.e.f. 7.1.1993 at Delhi airport. At Bombay Airport, CAT II ILS operation was never commissioned due to its infeasibility caused by the hillock and the huts in the encroached land in the approach funer of the runway. However, the lighting system at Bombay has been upgraded to the CAT II level in view of the density of traffic and importance of the Airport. No additional expenditure was incurred by the National Airports Authority on this account in Bombay.

As a consequence of installation of CAT II level of runway lighting, operating minima have been lowered for the carriers including Air India and Indian Airlines, who are taking advantage of the same while landing under adverse weather conditions. As regards the use of CAT-II ILS by the pilots of AI and IA, the management have reviewed the position and initiated action for training to the extent considered necessary.

To remove encroachment in vicinity of the Bombay Airport, IAAI has paid a sum of Rs. 1 crore to Maharashtra Housing and Area Development Authority as advance towards acquisition of an alternative land for resettlement of squatters. The acquisition proceedings have, however, been held up due to court litigation. The issue of encroachment at Calcutta airport has been taken up with the West Bengal Government to remove the same. Besides, security guards have been deployed at Delhi and wall has been constructed in some areas to prevent further encroachments. Periodic checks are undertaken to contain further encroachment.

Promoting tourism

7. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what are the targets for the Budgetary allocation for various projects of Indian Tourism during the Eighth Five Year Plan period for vigorous promotion of domestic tourism and moving towards diversification of overseas tourism from the traditional set up;

(b) what are the new projects and schemes which have been included in Eight Five Year Plan for promoting tourism in India and to establish new ITDC hotels in the different places in country, State-wise;

(c) what is the number of foreign tourists who visited India during the years 1990-91 and 1991-92 and the foreign exchange earnings from overseas